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AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY
AND NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

NEUROLOGY

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Mr. Eric Newman
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Dear Eric:

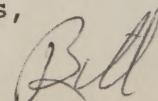
As I promised, I reviewed the Hunter papers that were in the Neuroscience journals (10, 14, 22, 27, 37, 43). They indicate careful work pertinent to joint movement and the human perception of joint movement. There is nothing radically original but it is solid work. And it has obvious pertinence to Hunter's later interest in robot devices where the human performer's perception of his own limb position is part of the control system. My cocktail party skepticism related to some of the brain science concepts that you had received by oral transmission. I remain skeptical that this fellow will make important contributions in neuroscience or brain physiology.

Microsurgical equipment is now used most impressively in laboratory cellular biology, which in the case of infertility treatment has led to fertilization of human eggs outside the mother's body. A great deal of genetic research relates to operative work on single cells under the microscope. Whether the new Hunter device is an epochal advance over present laboratory equipment is a question beyond my expertise. I have no reason from my own knowledge to doubt his prowess in robotic mechanical design.

In regard to the self-delusion of lie detector fans, you may have noticed that Safire's column in the Post, a few days after my letter, played the same theme.

Now we need a new subject to debate.

Yours,



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